

# Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp:  
**RECEIVED**  
**SECRETARY OF THE SENATE**  
**PUBLIC RECORDS**

**2018 JUN -7 PM 2:17**

**Post-Travel Filing Instructions:** Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building**.

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

- ☒ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**  
☒ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Partnership for Secure America

Private Sponsor(s) (list all):

Travel date(s): 5/12/2018-5/13/2018

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING **DID NOT INCREASE** DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

## Expenses for Employee:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate	\$41.25	\$90	\$77	\$170.37
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

## Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate				
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. *See* Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.): Roundtable discussions with experts on North Korea, the Middle East, and democracy

promotion, in addition to a National Security Council simulation responding to a crisis in the South China Sea

5/23/2018

(Date)

Levie Reekford

(Printed name of traveler)

[Signature]

(Signature of traveler)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

6/7/2018

(Date)

[Signature]

(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

## EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Date/Time Stamp:

**Pre-Travel Filing Instructions:** Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved. This form **must** be typed and is available as a fillable PDF on the Committee's website at [ethics.senate.gov](http://ethics.senate.gov). Retain a copy of your entire pre-travel submission for your required post-travel disclosure.

Name of Traveler: Louie Reckford

Employing Office/Committee: Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): Partnership for Secure America

Travel date(s): 5/12/2018-5/13/2018

*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.*

Destination(s): Warrenton, VA

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

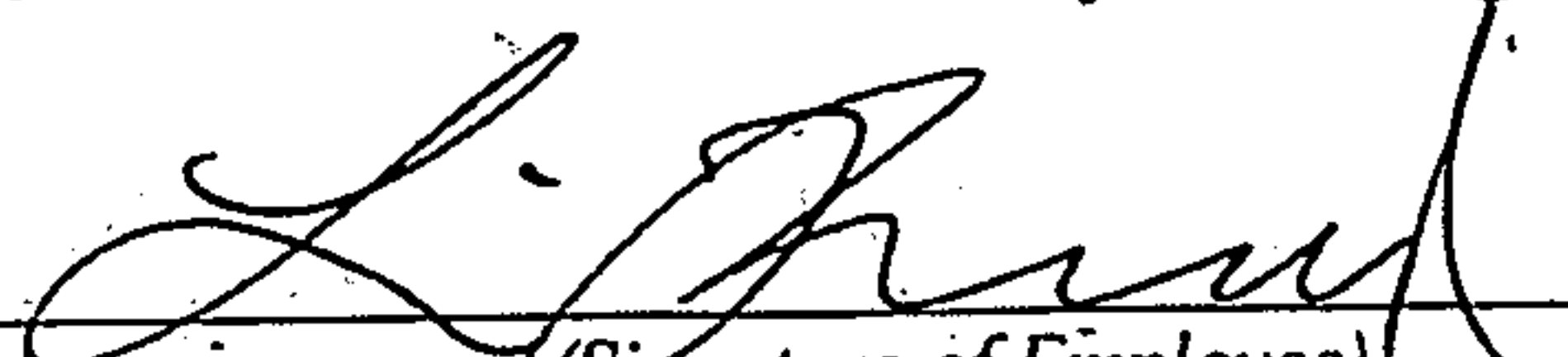
This trip will allow me to engage with former executive branch officials and policy experts to further my understanding of foreign policy issues and to deepen relationships with colleagues from other congressional offices, both in the Senate and the House of Representatives and from both sides of the aisle. Doing so will allow me to better collaborate with other offices in order to better serve the Senator's priorities.

Name of accompanying family member (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:

4/11/2018  
(Date)

  
(Signature of Employee)

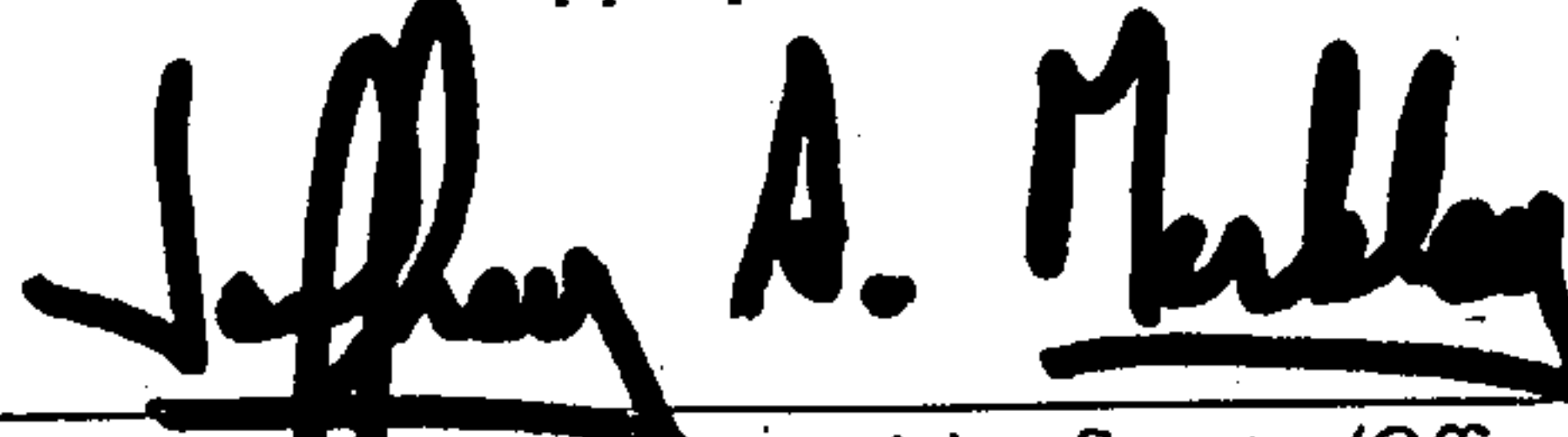
TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):

I, Senator Jeff Merkley hereby authorize Louie Reckford  
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. (signify "yes" by checking box) ☒

4/11/2018  
(Date)

  
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)





PARTNERSHIP FOR  
A SECURE AMERICA

April 9, 2018

Dear CPP Participant:

On behalf of the Advisory Board, the Board of Directors, and the staff of Partnership for a Secure America, I would like to welcome you to the Spring 2018 Congressional Partnership Program. Congratulations on your selection. We had a very strong group of applicants and are excited to have each of you this session.

The program promises to be an exciting and productive series again this season, and all of us at PSA look forward to your participation. I look forward to working with you in the coming months.

Best regards,

Nathan Sermonis  
Executive Director

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PARTNERSHIP FOR  
A SECURE AMERICA

**Congressional Partnership Program**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Senate**

*All invited congressional staff members handle foreign policy and national security topics in their professional office capacity.*

**Asher Allman**

Sen. Roy Blunt  
(R-MO)

**Edward Linczer**

Sen. Tom Cotton  
(R-AR)

**Brian Canfield**

Sen. Jeff Flake  
(R-AZ)

**Sam Mulopulos**

Sen. Rob Portman  
(R-OH)

**Courtney Cardin**

Senate Committee on Homeland  
Security and Governmental Affairs

**Linden Olberg**

Sen. Deb Fischer  
(R-NE)

**Courtney Davis**

Sen. Michael Bennet  
(D-CO)

**Jake Proctor**

Sen. Joni Ernst  
(R-IA)

**Anna Diederich**

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp  
(D-ND)

**Louie Reckford**

Sen. Jeff Merkley  
(D-OR)

**Felipe Galvis-Delgado**

Sen. Martin Heinrich  
(D-NM)

**Daniel Stapelkamp**  
Sen. Robert Menendez  
(D-NJ)

**Andrew Kalaris**

Sen. Tim Kaine  
(D-VA)

**Michelle Woods**

Senate Committee on Homeland  
Security and Governmental Affairs

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PARTNERSHIP FOR  
A SECURE AMERICA

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## Congressional Partnership Program Retreat Spring 2018

**National Security Advisor:** Mr. Robert Sheldon,  
Director for Policy – Emerging Threats at the  
Business Executives for National Security  
(INVITED)

2:00 – 3:30 pm

**\*Group A\***

Airlie House – Studio

**Guest Speaker:** Ms. Bonnie Glaser, Senior  
Advisor for Asia, CSIS

**Topic:** The Future of US-China Policy

3:30 – 5:00 pm

**\*Group A\***

Airlie House – Studio

**Guest Speaker:** Melinda Haring, Editor of the  
UkraineAlert Blog at the Atlantic Council &  
Thomas Carothers, Senior Vice President for  
Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for  
International Peace

**Topic:** Does Democracy Matter?

5:00 – 5:30 pm

Airlie House – Meadow Room

Wrap-up and Departure from Airlie

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## Congressional Partnership Program Retreat Spring 2018

### Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>

8:00 – 9:00 am

Airlie House – Dining Room  
Breakfast

9:00 – 12:00 pm

**\*Group A\***  
Airlie House – Meadow Room  
National Security Council Simulation  
**National Security Advisor:** Mr. Robert Sheldon,  
Director for Policy – Emerging Threats at the  
Business Executives for National Security  
(INVITED)

9:00 – 10:30 am

**\*Group B\***  
Airlie House – Studio  
**Guest Speaker:** Ms. Bonnie Glaser, Senior  
Advisor for Asia, CSIS  
**Topic:** The Future of US-China Policy

10:30 – 12:00 pm

**\*Group B\***  
Airlie House – Studio  
**Guest Speaker:** Melinda Haring, Editor of the  
UkraineAlert Blog at the Atlantic Council &  
Thomas Carothers, Senior Vice President for  
Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for  
International Peace  
**Topic:** Does Democracy Matter?

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Airlie House – Dining Room  
Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Informal conversations with guest speakers

2:00 – 5:00 pm

**\*Group B\***  
Airlie House – Meadow Room  
National Security Council Simulation





PARTNERSHIP FOR  
A SECURE AMERICA

## Congressional Partnership Program Retreat Spring 2018

### Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

1:30 pm	Depart from Union Station, Washington, DC
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Arrive at Airlie Conference Center & Check-in
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Material Review and Preparation
5:00 – 5:30 pm	Opening Remarks and Review of Agenda: Nathan Sermonis, PSA
5:30 – 7:00 pm	Airlie House – Meadow Room <b>Guest Speakers:</b> To be Determined <b>Topic:</b> Bipartisan Panel on Magnitsky Act
7:00 – 7:30 pm	East Room Pre-Dinner Reception Informal conversations with guest speakers
7:30 – 9:00 pm	East Room Keynote Dinner <b>Guest Speaker:</b> John McLaughlin, former Deputy Director of the CIA (INVITED) <b>Topic:</b> Global Challenges for Today and Tomorrow
9:00 – 10:00 pm	East Room After-Dinner Reception Informal conversations with guest speakers

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21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

Meals and lodging are below the per diem rate.

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

Participants will be transported by a coach class bus.

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

None

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title: Nathan Sermonis, Executive Director

Name of Organization: Partnership for a Secure America

Address: 1629 K Street NW, Suite 450, Washington, DC 20006

Telephone Number: (202) 293-8580

Fax Number: N/A

E-mail Address: sermonis@psaonline.org



15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

In addition to this congressional staff program, PSA releases high-level bipartisan policy statements on a range of foreign policy topics. These statements are generally available to the public.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate  <input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts	\$35 (Coach Bus)	\$90 (For One Night)	\$77 (For 2 days)	\$191 conference services (over 2 days). This includes cost of breakout room, A/V equipment, and incidental snacks/refreshments.

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

This trip was organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

It is close to Washington, DC, but also provides a remote setting that will encourage participants to step outside their daily roles as Senate staff.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Airle Conference Center, 6809 Airle Road, Warrenton, VA 20187.

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

It provides all necessary accommodations in one location that is close to Washington, DC for a one night trip. The lodging and conference location is all the same.

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

**-OR-**

☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (see questions 6 and 10).

**-OR-**

☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

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11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

Partnership for a Secure America (PSA) is solely responsible for planning and conducting this trip.

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13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

PSA's mission is to promote bipartisanship in national security and foreign policy. This trip will bring together staff from both parties to build cross-party relationships and discuss diverse perspectives on pressing issues in the national security and foreign policy arena.

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

This will be the eighteenth such trip of this nature.

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## PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors):  
Partnership for a Secure America
2. Description of the trip: Congressional staff weekend of foreign policy and national security lectures.
3. Dates of travel: May 12-13, 2018
4. Place of travel: Airlie Conference Center, Warrenton, VA
5. Name and title of Senate invitees: See Attached List
6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:  
☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.  
~~OR~~  
☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*).
7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.  
~~AND~~  
☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
8. I *certify* that:  
☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.  
~~AND~~  
☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).





## Airlie House – Meadow Room

**National Security Advisor:** Mr. Robert Sheldon,  
Director for Policy – Emerging Threats at the  
Business Executives for National Security

**\*Group A\***

**Guest Speaker:** Ms. Bonnie Glaser, Senior Advisor for Asia, CSIS

**\*Group A\***

**Guest Speaker:** Ms. Melinda Haring, Editor of the UkraineAlert Blog, Atlantic Council and Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute & Mr. Thomas Carothers, Senior Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

## Airlie House – Meadow Room

## Wrap-up and Departure from Airlie

SECRET



**Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

## Airlie House – Dining Room

### Breakfast

**\*Group A\***

## Airlie House – Meadow Room

# National Security Council Simulation

**National Security Advisor:** Mr. Robert Sheldon,  
Director for Policy – Emerging Threats at the  
Business Executives for National Security

**\*Group B\***

## Airlie – Jefferson Room

**Guest Speaker:** Ms. Bonnie Glaser, Senior Advisor for Asia, CSIS

**Topic:** Future of US-China Policy

**\*Group B\***

## Airlie – Jefferson Room

**Guest Speaker:** Ms. Melinda Haring, Editor of the UkraineAlert Blog, Atlantic Council and Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute & Mr. Thomas Carothers, Senior Vice President for Studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

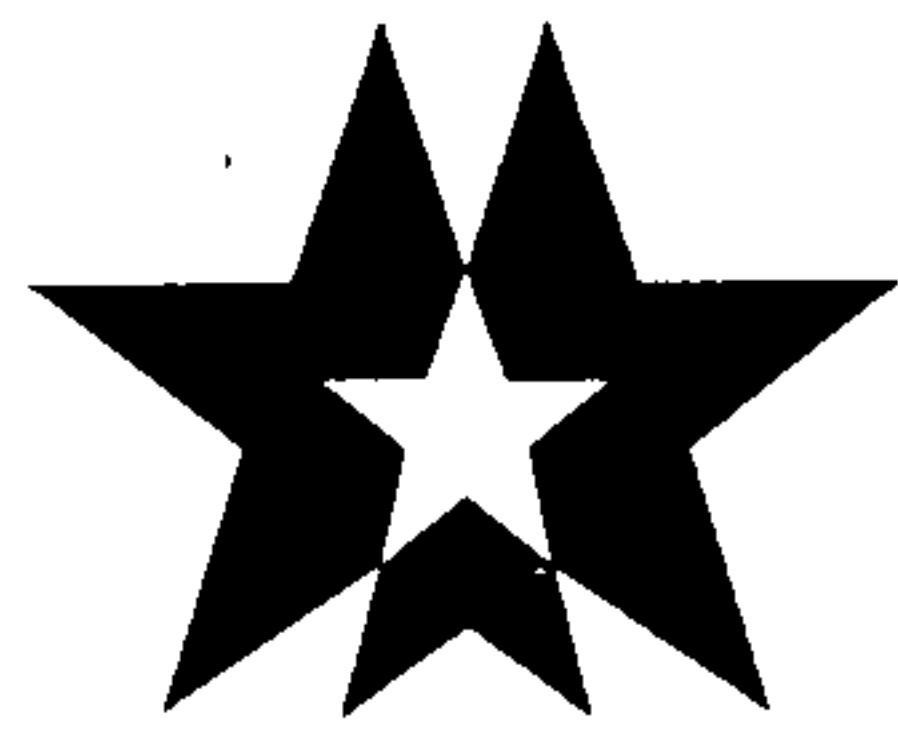
**Topic:** Does Democracy Matter?

## Airlie House – Dining Room

Lunch and informal conversations with guests  
speakers

## Informal conversations with guest speakers

**\*Group B\***



PARTNERSHIP FOR  
A SECURE AMERICA

## Congressional Partnership Program Retreat Spring 2018

### Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

1:30 pm	Depart from Union Station, Washington, DC
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Arrive at Airlie Conference Center & Check-in
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Material Review and Preparation
5:00 – 5:30 pm	Opening Remarks and Review of Agenda: Nathan Sermonis, PSA
5:30 – 7:00 pm	Airlie House – Meadow Room <b>Guest Speakers:</b> Ambassador Robert Gallucci, Former Ambassador-at-Large and Special Envoy for the U.S. Department of State <b>Topic:</b> Negotiating with North Korea
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Federal Room Pre-Dinner Reception Informal conversations with guest speakers
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Federal Room Keynote Dinner <b>Guest Speaker:</b> Ambassador Ryan Crocker <b>Topic:</b> Global Challenges for Today and Tomorrow
9:00 – 10:00 pm	Federal Room After-Dinner Reception Informal conversations with guest speakers



# United States Senate

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

May 4, 2018

Louie Reckford  
Office of Senator Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Reckford:

This responds to your recent correspondence concerning an invitation you received to travel to a foreign policy and national security program in Warrenton, Virginia, on May 12-13, 2018, sponsored by the Partnership for a Secure America (PSA). PSA certified to the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) that it will pay the *necessary expenses*<sup>1</sup> related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, nor lobbying firm, nor an agent of a foreign principal, and it is not otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. PSA has also certified that it does not retain or employ a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal and that no registered lobbyist will accompany you at *any point throughout your trip*.<sup>2</sup>

Based on information and materials available to the Committee, and assuming the **actual** travel and travel-related expenses conform to the information and materials you provided, it appears that the proposed payment or reimbursement of necessary expenses for this trip **may be accepted** under relevant Senate Rules and the Committee's *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel*, so long as at the time of the payment or reimbursement, PSA is neither a registered lobbyist nor lobbying firm under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, nor an agent of a foreign principal under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (and is not otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government), and provided the travel and all required documents are disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate in accordance with the provisions of Senate Rules 34 and 35.

Under Senate Rule 35, Senate staff must receive advance authorization signed by the Member or officer under whose direct supervision the individual works in order to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to fact-finding travel. Further, such authorization and expenses must be disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate by filing the completed *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* and the *Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses* (Form RE-1 and Form RE-2), along with a copy of the *Private Sponsor Travel*

<sup>1</sup> The term "necessary expenses" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 8.

<sup>2</sup> The term "any point throughout your trip" has a specific definition. See *id.* at 2.

*Certification Form*, and all relevant attachments (e.g., the private sponsor's invitation and itinerary) **within 30 days of the conclusion of Privately-Sponsored Travel**.

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a reporting individual,<sup>3</sup> on his or her Financial Disclosure Report, to make an annual disclosure of the receipt of payments or reimbursements under Senate Rule 35 from a private sponsor for officially-related travel expenses where, in the aggregate, travel expenses exceed \$390 from that sponsor during a calendar year. However, if a Member, officer, or employee properly reports the receipt of necessary expenses for such travel to the Secretary of the Senate within 30 days of the travel, as discussed above, the travel expenses need not be disclosed a second time on their Financial Disclosure Report.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee.

Sincerely,



Deborah Sue Mayer  
Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Enclosure: Travel Checklist

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<sup>3</sup> A reporting individual is someone whose salary equals or exceeds 120% of the basic rate of pay for GS-15 (\$126,148 for CY 2018) or is a political fund designee and is required to file Financial Disclosure Reports.

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